

Serial No. 10/816,926

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6 and 7 have been amended, and claim 8 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are pending, with claims 6 and 7 being under consideration.

Claim 7 has been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended into independent form, placing claim 7 into allowable condition.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watai et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,788,356. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has set forth that FIG. 15 of Watai et al. discloses features of independent claim 6.

In particular, the Office Action relies on FIG. 15 of Watai et al., which illustrates a light source shield, a guide plate, with the guide plate having edges 61 and 62, and spacers 51 and 52 having spacer portions 51a and 52a. Spacer portions 51a and 52a provide inclinations followed by the shield of the light source. The inclination of spacer portions 51a and 52a first provide an upward slant away from edges 61 and 62 and then proceed to provide downward slants toward edges 61 and 62, with respect to the light source shield in the direction of the guide plate.

The upward then downward slanting permits the spacers 51 and 52 to generate a compression to the distal ends of the light source shield with the case member.

Further, Watai et al. would appear to indicate the initial slanting of the light source shield away from edges 61 and 62, as dictated by the slanting of spacer portions 51a and 52a, directs light away from edges 61 and 62 "preventing light from intruding through the edge portions 61 and 62...to considerably decrease a quantity of light intruding to the side of the light guide plate" to decrease "intrusive brightening." where irregularities in luminance are observed as a fringe pattern including highlight and shadow output from the surface of the light guide. See Watai et al. in cols. 3 and 15.

Thus, the differing inclinations of spacer portions 51a and 52a are for both compressing the light source shield and providing an inclination surface to help prevent light from entering

Serial No. 10/816,926

edges 61 and 62. Watai et al. further indicates that edges 61 and 62 can be painted to prevent light from entering the same.

With the above inclinations of spacer portions 51a and 52a, of spacers 51 and 52, the actual ends of the light source shield incline back toward the edges 61 and 62. This would appear to be implemented to provide the compression of the light source shield against the case member surrounding the light source shield.

Accordingly, Watai et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least that the end of the light source shield is inclined "so as to reflect and guide illuminating light toward an incidence surface area remote from the first and second edges," as claimed in independent claim 6.

Watai et al. would appear to desire the differing inclinations ending with an inclination toward edges of the light guide plate for compression of the light source shield with the case member 4, thereby teaching away from not having this end inclination toward the edges of the light guide plate. Further, Watai et al. would not appear to disclose the claimed formation of the light source shield to prevent bright lines from appearing on an emission surface of the guide plate. The end of Watai et al. would not appear to prevent bright lines from appearing on an emission surface of the guide plate.

Lastly, it is noted that the differing inclinations of Watai et al. cannot be both considered inclusive of an "end" of the light source shield. They have substantially different characteristics and perform differing functions, and therefore cannot be considered inclusive of one portion, e.g., the distal "end" of the light source shield.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn and claim 6 be allowed.

Serial No. 10/816,926

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

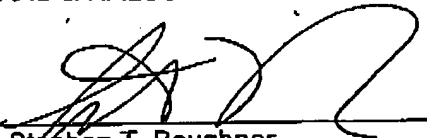
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9/29/05

By: 
Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents.

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on Sept. 29, 2005

STAAS & HALSEY

By: Robert M. Bombardier

Date Sept. 29, 2005